

Churchill House
Portland, Maine

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

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"CHURCHILL HOUSE"

51 State Street
Portland, Cumberland County, Maine

Owner

H. E. Craven

Date of Erection

1801

Architect

Alexander Parris

Builder

Joseph Holt Ingraham

Present Condition

The roof of the original house has been repaired, sash and glass replaced, and front porch altered. It is believed that the front face of the house was originally flush boarded. The extension at the rear of the main house is not original.

The interior of the house has had extensive alterations. Partitions have been torn out and rebuilt to change the sizes of rooms. Fireplaces have been closed. The mantel, doors, wainscot and all trim from one of the most interesting rooms (known as the LaFayette Room) was removed some years ago and is now set up in a house in Washington, D. C.

Description

Three story frame house with low sloping hip roof, four inside chimneys, two on end walls of the house; central front entrance; granite foundation about three feet above grade level. The front face of the house is decorated by six pilasters supporting an elaborate entablature. These pilasters rest on a string course at second floor level. Windows of the third story are about half the height of those on lower floors. A semi-circular window lights the third floor hall. In the second story, there is a three part window separated by colnettes.

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Other Existing Records

Brief record of the house in "Nathan Gould Scrapbook" in custody of the Maine Historical Society Library, Portland, Maine.

Additional Data

Joseph Holt Ingraham was a prominent real estate dealer of early Portland. He laid out State Street and presented it to the city of Portland. At the time this house was built, it is said to have been a masterpiece of the architecture of its time. In 1807, the builder, with several prominent merchants of Portland failed and the house went into the possession of a Portland bank. In 1816 it was sold to Judge William Pitt Preble, who was at one time U. S. District Attorney, later Judge of the Supreme Court of Maine, Minister Plenipotentiary to the Hague, and a trustee of Bowdoin College.

Commodore James M. Churchill bought the house in 1857.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Frank J. Tubby

April 28, 1937

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